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THE  
UNITED STATES

# National Arboretum

Washington, D.C.



PA-309

U.S. Department of Agriculture

# The United States National Arboretum



Activities of the United States National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., are concerned primarily with educating the public regarding trees and shrubs and conducting research on these plants.

In keeping with the educational aims, many varieties of trees and shrubs are being assembled for public display. These plants are identified by labels and are grouped to demonstrate their landscape or other economic uses. This part of the Arboretum program is still in an early stage.

Research on woody plants emphasizes the development of superior forms for cultivation in various climatic zones in the United States. A herbarium containing 470,000 dried plants is maintained for technical reference.

The Arboretum was established by act of Congress on March 4, 1927. It is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service. An advisory committee, composed of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations, assists the Secretary in developing the Arboretum and its program. This program is national in scope.

The Arboretum's location also adds to its national character. It is in an intermediate climatic zone, which makes possible the growing of trees and shrubs from a relatively wide range of climatic situations.

## The Arboretum Plantings



The plantings are arranged in varied groups throughout the Arboretum. Nine miles of paved roads provide access to the principal plant groups, which are indicated on the map (inside).

In direct view of the M Street entrance is the site of the planned 30-acre "synoptic" garden, which will contain representatives of all the plantings in the Arboretum.

In the Arboretum are single-genus groupings of such plants as hollies, crabapples, and azaleas. Simple and mixed plantings are grouped for landscape effect. Other plantings are grouped for use as ground covers and bank covers. Plants in the Morrison Azalea Garden are grouped in a formal arrangement.

Plant groups of unusual interest include the azalea plantings, which are among the most extensive in the Nation; the collection of Oriental plants in the Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America; the dogwood planting of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association; and a Fern Valley sponsored by the National Capital Garden Club League and other organizations.

## Seasonal Highlights



**LATE MARCH—EARLY APRIL.**—The early leaf greens, flowers of camellias, the first pears, magnolias, and early bulbs which have been naturalized in considerable quantity.

**MID-APRIL.**—Quince, magnolias, the earlier azaleas and rhododendrons, daffodils, and the flowering cherries and crabapples.

**LATE APRIL AND MAY.**—The main mass of azaleas, flowering dogwood, and the later crabapples are followed by native azaleas, mountain-laurel, the huge blooms of the elephant-ear magnolia and peonies.

**JUNE—AUGUST.**—Daylilies are followed by crape myrtles and hibiscus. Scattered shrubs bloom throughout the summer.

**SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER.**—Fall-flowering *Lycoris* and *Sternbergia*, and massed fruits of crabapples, firethorns, and a host of berried shrubs. Fall display begins in mid-September and continues through October, when tree foliage exhibits its spectacular change in color. This color change is highlighted by the rich yellows of tulip poplar and hickory, and the reds and bronzes of the gums and dogwoods that are abundantly scattered throughout the native woodlands. Through October and much of November, fall-blooming camellias provide the last flower show of the year.

**ALL SEASON.**—Fern Valley provides interest throughout the growing season.

## Visiting Hours



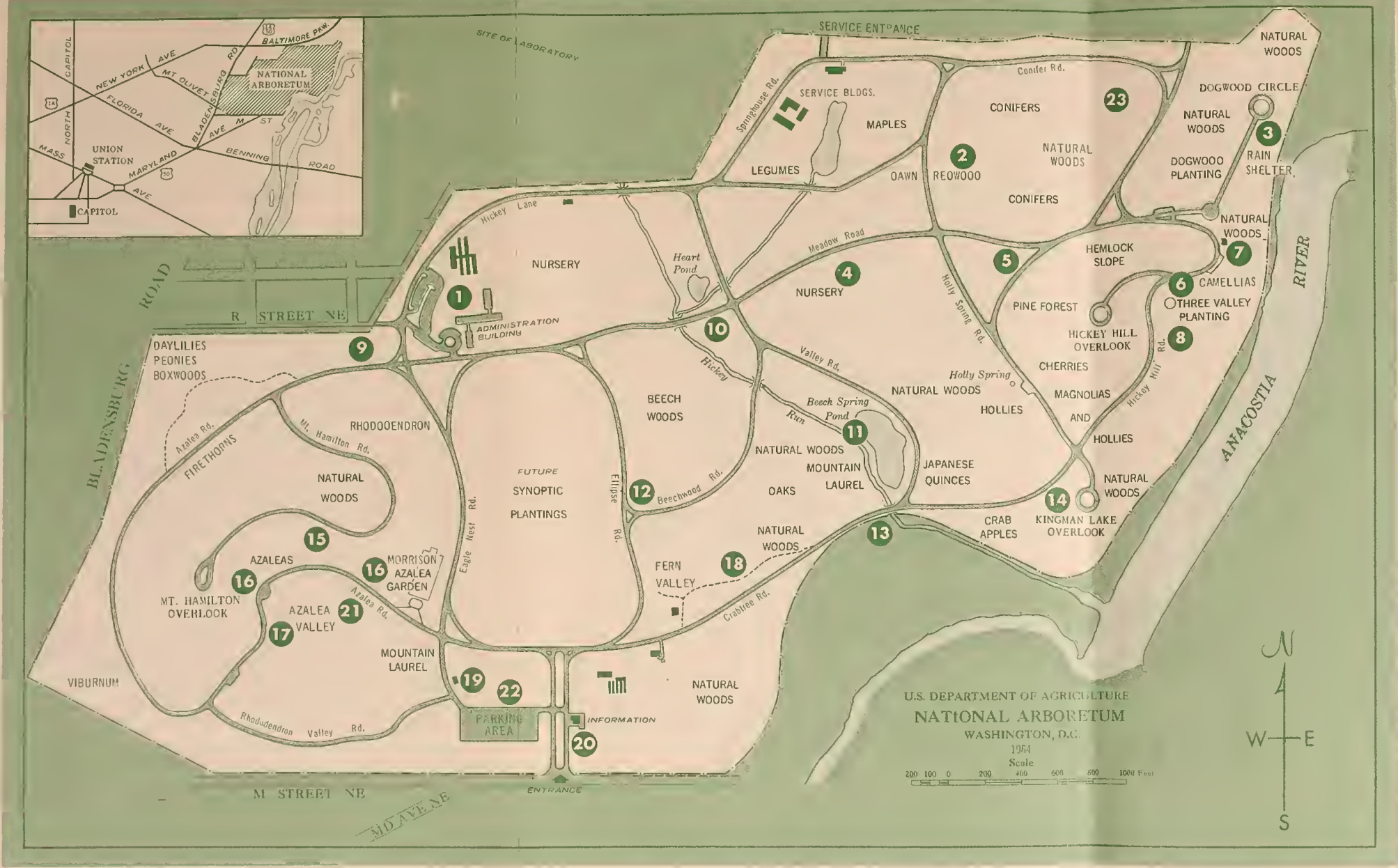
The Arboretum is open every day of the year except Christmas. The visiting hours are as follows:

**APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER**—8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

**NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH**—8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.







Rules for Visitors

The following regulations are necessary for the protection and functioning of the Arboretum:

- Visitors enter the Arboretum at their own risk.
- Automobiles may not be driven on roads marked "closed." Parking areas are usually designated. The speed limit is 15 miles per hour.
- Dogs must be kept on leash.
- Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or a responsible adult.
- Bicycling is not permitted.
- Lunching or picnicking is not permitted.
- The building of fires is prohibited. Visitors are requested to be especially careful during dry periods in disposing of cigars, cigarettes, and matches.

Two comfort stations are located near areas 7 and 19. Rain shelters are provided in areas 3 and 17 and drinking fountains in areas 7, 16, 17, 20 and 22.



Guide Service

Guide service is not regularly maintained; organized groups requiring the services of a guide should make arrangements for this service well in advance of the proposed visiting date. Guides are not available on Sundays.



Information

During the spring, general inquiries may be directed to the Gate-house just inside the main (M Street) gate.

Items of Special Interest		LOCATION	
Administration Building	1	Oak, Willow— <i>Quercus phellos</i> (large tree)	4
Azaleas, Ghent, and Mollis hybrid (collection)	17	Office—Information	20
Azaleas, Glenn Dale hybrid (collection)	16	Pine, Himalayan— <i>Pinus griffithi</i>	2
Bald Cypress— <i>Taxodium</i> spp	11, 13	Pine, Lacebark— <i>Pinus bungeana</i>	5
Birch, River— <i>Betula nigra</i>	10	Rain shelters	3, 17
Camellias	7	Rest rooms	7, 19
Cedar, Atlas— <i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	8	Spring bulbs — Naturalized daffodils, tulips, scillas, etc	3, 6, 17
Cedar of Lebanon— <i>Cedrus libani</i>	8	Street Trees	22
Cryptomeria— <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	6	Walnut, Black— <i>Juglans nigra</i> (large tree)	15
Daffodils	18		
		LOCATION	
Dawn Redwood— <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	21		
Dogwoods	3		
Fern Valley	18		
Gotelli Conifer Collection	23		
Magnolia, Elephant-ear— <i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	14		
Oak, Spanish— <i>Quercus falcata</i> (large tree)	12		
Oak, White— <i>Quercus alba</i> (large tree)	9		

## Location of Arboretum



The Arboretum occupies 415 acres in the north-east section of the District of Columbia. It is bounded on the west by Bladensburg Road (U.S. Route 50), on the north by the Baltimore Parkway, and on the south by M Street. The main (M Street) gate and visitors' entrance is just east of the point where Maryland Avenue terminates at M Street. (See insert map inside.)

## How to Reach Arboretum



**CARS OR TAXICABS.**—From downtown Washington, take Maryland Avenue northeast from the Capitol to M Street, and turn east on M Street to reach main gate. The Arboretum can also be reached by way of Bladensburg Road (U.S. Route 50) by turning off onto R Street. (See insert map, inside, for routes.)

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.**—From central Washington, take bus No. 42 to Thirteenth and D Streets Northeast; then change to bus B-2, "Mt. Rainier," to intersection of Bladensburg Road and R Street. Walk east on R Street 300 yards to the R Street gate.



*For further information  
apply at the office of  
or write or call*

U.S. National Arboretum  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: 399-5400